

SENATOR DE CAMP: I think that they are having a problem in the way they are handling prostitution in Omaha.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Senator DeCamp, do you think that if the city of Omaha had to live with this legislation here, do you think that they could enforce the law properly?

SENATOR DE CAMP: I think that if the city of Omaha had the particular legislation as we have got it drafted in the bill the problem on prostitution would be minimized tremendously.

SENATOR VENDITTE: So in essence those girls that are on the streets right now, rather than taking them to jail and having them go through the formal court proceedings you think that provides less of a deterrent than a citation?

SENATOR DE CAMP: Well, you are talking about deterrents to prostitution and I'm talking about problems. I am suggesting that they would have less of a problem because your police would probably be doing more constructive things than chasing whores down the street and trying to get them all into the court room. They would be worrying about serious crimes. You are pandering the people who make prisoners of the prostitutes and use them in an abusive way wouldn't be as interested in that because the girls wouldn't have that much to fear. I'm just talking at you in reality.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Thank you senator. I don't think that it is the philosophy of this legislature to issue citations be it for a prostitute or a person who is attempting to use marijuana as we are going to see later on down the line. One more question of Senator DeCamp please.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator DeCamp will you respond one more time please.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Last week Senator DeCamp when we were discussing the prostitution I indicated that we had a problem in the city of Omaha and I did not think that we could live under the laws that this new code would have established. You said go back to the City Council and if in fact we in the City of Omaha can't live with whatever the laws the state have we have the right, the authority to go ahead and establish whatever laws we feel are necessary to restrict whatever problems that we might have. I guess the question that I have of you Senator DeCamp is simply this. Can a city provide greater penalties than that prescribed by state law?

SENATOR DE CAMP: You have in Omaha a home rule charter.

SENATOR VENDITTE: No senator, would you answer the question now and it is simply this. Can we the city of Omaha establish greater penalties than those prescribed or established by the state?

SENATOR DE CAMP: I was trying to answer. You have in Omaha something known as home rule charter. It is a constitutional arrangement that gives you certain rights in Omaha different for example from other cities. It is my understanding and belief that you would have the ability to control prostitution as you saw fit pretty much under your home rule charter. Those laws might be completely different from those we as legislators might pass.